

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12-15 and 20 have been examined. Claims 10, 12-14 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,485,287 to Sugano (“Sugano”) and U.S. Patent No. 4,944,906 to Colby (“Colby”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 12-14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sugano in view of the newly cited Colby reference.

A. Claim 10

Without conceding to the Examiner’s position, Applicant hereby incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 15 into claim 10. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 is now moot.

B. Claims 12-14 and 20

Applicant submits that claims 12-14 and 20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency upon claim 10.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Since the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 10, Applicant has canceled claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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